

Hath not a denser zone of light,
 Than this small clustering silver orb,
 With a dew-drop in each eye ;
 Silver—but golden touched within,
 Pearls—with a central light,
 Snow—with a spot of sunshine seen
 Like shade they are so bright."

The aquatic species is the only one of the species without noxious qualities, which is remarkable, since, in nearly every case, a plant growing in such a situation if at all of a suspicious family, would lead us to pronounce it as certainly dangerous.

THE SPEEDWELL.

(*Veronica*.)

Class, Diandria. Order, Monogynia. Nat. Ord.,
 Scrophularineæ.

A number of Speedwells are now in bloom, and many of them are very familiar to most persons. The color of the corolla in the majority of them is bright blue with darker veins, and consists of one piece divided into four segments, and hence termed monopetalous. The lower segment of the blossom in all the species is much narrower than the rest, and is a striking characteristic of the fa-

mily. The blossoms are very short-lived, and fall soon after the flowers are gathered, therefore

" Pluck, but be cautious lest you shed
 The petals of the tender flower ;
 And shorten thus the little hour
 At most allotted it to grace
 With transient bloom its native place."

MANT.

The following species are very common. The thyme-leaved Speedwell (*Veronica serpyllifolia*), a perennial plant frequent in pastures and on road sides. It bears a small spike of pale blue blossoms; the leaves are egg-shaped, and slightly notched. The long leaved Water Speedwell (*V. anagallis*) flowers in ditches and wet places, and grows erect from two to three feet in height; the flowers are pale blue and insignificant, and the whole plant smooth and succulent. The Brooklime, (*V. beccabunga*) bears a much brighter blue blossom than the two former, and is a very common plant in water courses; the stems are decumbent and succulent, and the blossoms form a spike. The Common Speedwell, (*V. officinalis*) blooms in woods and pastures, and the Mountain Speedwell (*V. montana*) in moist woods. The Ivy-leaved Speedwell, (*V. hederifolia*), and the green procumbent Chickweed Speedwell, (*V. agrestis*), is a great pest in cultivated ground, where, if the soil be sandy, the fibres of their roots